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Montana IDEA Project

Vol. 1 No. 2
APRIL 1998

INTEGRATED DATA FOR EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

WELCOME!!

Welcome to the second issue of our IDEA Project Newsletter! We plan to provide you with the latest information on the progress of our multi-year public health data integration project, and other related information, by publishing monthly issues of this newsletter. We have been sending out other communications over the past year and will continue to provide updated FAQ's and charts as we go along. However, we're planning that the newsletter will be our regular means of keeping you informed about this critical effort to support public health delivery at the local level.

Please share this newsletter with other interested people and organizations. We can be contacted through any of the means listed below.

MONTANA IDEA PROJECT

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The **MT IDEA Project** is a four-phased project which places emphasis first on providing local integration to have impact on service delivery to clients as soon as possible:

PHASE I — Develop a comprehensive Public Health Data System (PHDS) for use at local public health departments which will provide a robust client management capability for FollowMe/MIAMI, Family Planning and Immunization, and other public health programs as needed.

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PHASE IV — Complete full-scale training, support and evaluation components of the first three phases. Develop and extend electronic links with private providers of immunizations, with hospitals providing birth assessment information, and with other divisions' related information systems.

IDEA Project Part of Montana Health Agenda

The "road map" for public health services and program action of the Health Policy and Services Division of the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services over the next five to ten years is presented in the **MONTANA HEALTH AGENDA**, published in April of 1998. The Agenda identifies, describes, and sets action for the sixteen highest priority issues for the health and safety of Montana's citizens and visitors. Included among those top priorities is "Information Access and Security." The IDEA project goals and objectives embody the Division's actions to address that priority issue.

If you would like a copy of the Montana Health Agenda, call the Health Policy and Services Division at 444-4540.

This project is supported by federal funds including: grant MCH-30T033-05-0 from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (Title V, Social Security Act), Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; grant U66/CCU815295-01 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the Public Health Service of the Department of Health and Human Services; and by funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Service, under Grant Number 59-3198-7-520. The contents of this publication are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the view or policies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture or the Department of Health and Human Services, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

Telecommunications Discounts Available

On January 1, 1998, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) began implementing a new $400 million per year program, the Universal Services Telehealth Program, that is designed to improve public health and health care in rural areas by lowering the costs of telecommunication services.

If your agency cannot reach an Internet Service Provider (ISP) without a toll-call (no local ISP), you may be eligible to receive support for 30 hours worth of toll-charges per month (or $180 of toll-charges per month, whichever is less). Also, the program will pay the difference between the relatively higher cost of advanced telecommunication service in a rural area and that of the same service in an urban area. Information about these discounts may be found at www.neca.org or by calling the Rural Health Care Corporation (a non-profit corporation created by the FCC) at 1-888-203-7300.

In addition to this federal program, there is a related **state program** administered by the Montana Public Service Commission. This program provides funding assistance for the transport or mileage costs for a dedicated 56 kbps circuit to the nearest access point for advanced services. Health care providers may apply for FY98 funding assistance through the MPSC.

Information can be obtained from www.psc.mt.gov or by calling **Bonnie Lorang at 406-444-6191. The application deadline for the state funds available in fiscal year 1999 is January 1, 1999.**

Evaluation Protocol Published

The *IDEA Project Evaluation Protocol* has been completed and is available to anyone who would like a copy. This evaluation plan will allow us to assess the impact of our public health data integration initiative on the **process** of providing maternal and child health-related services and on intermediate and final **health outcomes** for the clients served.

This protocol was developed by Dr. Michele Teitelbaum of Abt Associates, Inc., in consultation with program and project staff of the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. The protocol provides a conceptual evaluation model and provides suggested outcome measures to supplement the existing process and intermediate outcome measures already developed by departmental staff to assess the effectiveness of the programs involved.

If you would like a copy of the protocol, contact Sib Clack at 444-9527.

PHDS Vendor Selection Continues

The selection of a vendor whose existing software can substantially meet the requirements of our Public Health Data System (PHDS) is expected to be complete by early May, 1998. The PHDS will initially include the Follow MIAMI, Family Planning and Immunization programs.

An Evaluation Committee of state program staff and county public health professionals has been meeting in Helena to evaluate the proposals received in response to our Request for Proposal issued last month. Once the vendor has been chosen, customization of the existing software to meet our particular requirements will begin. This effort will again involve the participation of state program staff and local public health professionals from around the state.

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NEWS LETTER

Montana IDEA Project

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Vol. 1 No. 3
MAY 1998

INTEGRATED DATA FOR EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

Welcome to the third issue of our IDEA Project newsletter!

We plan to provide you with the latest information on the progress of our multi-year public health data integration project, and other related information, by publishing monthly issues of this newsletter. We have been sending out other communications (memoranda on specific topics, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) handouts, a chart showing the phases of the Project) over the past year and will continue to provide updated FAQ's and charts as we go along. However, we're planning that the newsletter will be our regular means of keeping you informed about this critical effort to support public health service delivery at the local level.

Please share this newsletter with other interested people and/or let us know of people and organizations that you think would be interested in being kept informed as we proceed. You can contact us through any of the means listed below.

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Advisory Council Meeting Schedule

The quarterly meeting of the IDEA Project's advisory council of stakeholders, the twenty-six member Data Integration Advisory Council (DIAC), will meet in Helena at the Cogswell Building in room C209B from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 10, 1998. The *major topic* of consideration will be the advantages and disadvantages of maintaining local Public Health Data System (PHDS) data on a server located centrally or on servers at individual local sites.

If you have questions or suggested agenda items for the DIAC or the upcoming meeting, call Sib Clack at 444-9527. If you would like a list of the membership of this advisory council, call Leyetta Way, IDEA Project Administrative Assistant, at 444-4565.

RFP Process Completed

The Evaluation Committee of state program staff and county public health professionals found that the proposals received in response to our Request for Proposal (RFP) did not meet the requirements for our Public Health Data System (PHDS). (The PHDS will initially include the FollowMe, MIAMI, Family Planning and Immunization programs.) The RFP process has, therefore, been concluded without the award of a contract.

Our next step is to investigate our options to meet our PHDS system requirements.

IDEA Officer Visits Health Departments

Sib Clack, Communications Officer, will be traveling in June to visit public health departments and community leaders to describe the IDEA Project and discuss questions, concerns and suggestions. She and Jim Aspevig of the Immunization Program will be traveling together to Livingston, Billings, Miles City, Glendive, Baker and Sydney during the week of June 15-19, 1998. If you are interested in specific details, call Sib at 444-9527.

This project is supported by federal funds including: grant MCH-30T033-05-0 from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (Title V, Social Security Act), Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; grant U66/CCU815295-01 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the Public Health Service of the Department of Health and Human Services; and by funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Service, under Grant Number 59-3198-7-520. The contents of this publication are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the view or policies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture or the Department of Health and Human Services, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

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Internet Site Available

Those of you who are linked to the "electronic highway of the world" can access a detailed description of Montana's data integration efforts on a website that was commissioned by the federal Department of Health and Human Services to share what each state is doing to integrate public health information. State Data Integration Activities for the state of Montana can be located at **http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/statereg/mt/mt%5ffin.htm**.

The IDEA Project is also on the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services' website at **http://www.dphhs.mt.gov**.

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Vol. 1 No. 4
JUNE 1998

INTEGRATED DATA FOR EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

Advisory Council Quarterly Meeting Held

The quarterly meeting of the IDEA Project's advisory council of stakeholders, the Data Integration Advisory Council (DIAC), was held in Helena on Wednesday, June 10, 1998.

Members in attendance were: Yvonne Bradford, Joyce Burgett, John Chappuis, Mary Angela Collins, Susan Cunrod (for Karen Hruska), JoAnn Dotson, Nancy Ellery, Debra Fulton, Jan Forbes, Terri Hocking, Kathleen Martin, Susan Raph, and Rick Yearry. Members unable to attend were: Christine Amundson, Mary Beth Frideres, Rita Harding, Paul Johnson, Phil Mattheis, Fred Reed and Representative Bill Tash.

Guests and interested persons in attendance included: Tom Lacher and Alton Reddick from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia; Dr. Michael Spence, State Medical Officer; Jack Ellery, Tor Gudmundson and Ron Baldwin from BDM, International; Jim Aspevig, from the Immunization program; Teri Lundberg from the Network and Communications Support Bureau; and Bob Moon from the Health Systems Bureau.

If you have questions about, or suggested agenda items for, the DIAC, call Sib Clack at 444-9527. If you would like a list of the current membership of this advisory council, call Leyetta Way, IDEA Project Administrative Assistant, at 444-4565.

Aspevig Joins IDEA Staff

The IDEA Project is delighted to announce that Jim Aspevig of the Immunization Program in the Health Policy and Services Division will be joining the IDEA Project Staff part-time. Jim is known to many public health department and local program staff as a knowledgeable, helpful resource for hardware and software installation and trouble-shooting, in addition to his contributions as an immunization program consultant. Jim will be focusing initially on the infrastructure aspects of fielding the Public Health Data System (PHDS) and on user training and software maintenance after PHDS has been rolled out to participating counties.

IDEA Officer Plans Summer Travel

Sib Clack, IDEA Communications Officer, will be traveling across the State this summer to visit public health departments, county commissioners and other community leaders to describe the IDEA Project and discuss questions, concerns and suggestions. She and Jim Aspevig will be traveling to Missoula, Polson, Kalispell, Libby and Thompson Falls during the week of July 6-10, 1998. Sib will be in eastern Montana (Billings, Miles City, Glendive, Sidney, Wolf Point) during the week of July 20-24. For specific details, call Sib at 444-9527.

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PHASE IV Complete full-scale training, support and evaluation components of the first three phases. Develop and extend electronic links with private providers of immunizations, with hospitals providing birth assessment information, and with other divsions' related information systems.

Correction: In last month's edition we mispelled Sidney. We apologize for the error.

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Vol. 1 No. 5
JULY 1998

INTEGRATED DATA FOR EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

Questions Arise re: Data Conversion

A question has arisen from some public health department staff about conversion of existing program data into the new Public Health Data System (PHDS). "Will we lose any of our data in the conversion to PHDS if we decide to use that software instead of our existing data systems?"

If a county's data has been entered into

continued pg. 2

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PHDS Project Timeline Released

The IDEA Project TIME LINE for Phase I, the Public Health Data System (PHDS), has been determined in consultation with the Project's technical consultants, TRW (formerly BDM International, Inc.).

Contract with vendor of software to meet PHDS requirements	August 14, 1998
Begin baseline data collection for evaluation of pilot sites	October, 1998
Review and design of software to meet requirements	October 28, 1998
Customization and development of PHDS	January 28, 1999
Begin pilot testing of data conversion	December 10, 1998
Begin pilot test of PHDS at selected pilot sites	March 4, 1999
Complete pilot test of PHDS	early-June, 1999
Begin statewide roll-out of PHDS to participating counties	mid-June, 1999
Anticipated date of completion of roll-out	early-December, 1999

Advisory Council Gains Three Members

We are delighted to announce that our Data Integration Advisory Council (DIAC) membership will now receive input from two new stakeholders in the IDEA Project--a compact tribal health department and county commissioners--and will broaden county public health department representation. These representatives will add their perspectives to those of current DIAC members who advise the staff of the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services responsible for the IDEA Project.

Kathie Bailey, a Fergus County Commissioner, will be joining DIAC to bring the perspective of the county officials charged with the responsibility of fiscal support of local public health programs to the advisory role of the Council.

Cybil Sangrey will be representing the health services perspective of the Chippewa Cree Tribe, one of the two compact tribes in Montana for health services. (Non-compact tribes are primarily served by the Indian Health Service, which is represented on the DIAC by Rita Harding.) Ms. Sangrey is the Planner for the Rocky Boy's Health Board.

Jody Menyhart, co-Director of the Custer County Health Department, will be joining the DIAC in order to represent the providers of county public health services in eastern Montana in the deliberations of the advisory group.

Welcome! We look forward to your participation in our next quarterly meeting, September 30, 1998, and to your comments and suggestions in the meantime.

If you have questions about, or suggested agenda items for, the DIAC, call Sib Clack at 444-9527. If you would like a list of the current membership of this advisory council, call Leyetta Way, IDEA Project Administrative Assistant, at 444-4565.

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Data Conversion continued ————

the existing software (FollowMe/MIAMI, CMX and HealthMaster) in accordance with the established data fields of those software packages, data conversion will be relatively easy to accomplish. If, however, counties have not entered data elements in the locations designed for them (for instance, family name information recorded in the "Comments" section), there will be greater difficulty in making the conversion.

We are studying data conversion options and will update you next month. Our goal will always be to convert all data that are consistently entered in existing databases and give counties a way to convert their own data if the data have not been consistently entered.

Officer Plans Travel to Three MT Regions

Sib Clack, the IDEA Project Communications Officer, will be traveling in August and September in southeastern and central Montana and to the Hi-Line to meet with public health department staff, boards of health, and county commissioners to talk about the IDEA Project. If you have specific questions, call Sib at 444-9527.

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Vol. 1 No. 6
AUGUST 1998

INTEGRATED DATA FOR EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

PHDS Data Conversion Process Explained

The work plan for developing and implementing the Public Health Data System (PHDS) in Phase I of the IDEA Project includes approximately six months of data conversion analysis, extracting, mapping, and pilot testing. Our goal remains to convert all data that are consistently entered in existing databases and give counties a way to convert their own data if the data have not been consistently entered.

When county data entry has not been consistent across all users or for all data entry fields, the conversion process can be very time consuming. For example, if some or all county staff entered precoded, identifying, or pre-formatted information (such as marital status or family name) in free-form fields (such as comments fields), only someone familiar with the county's data and data entry methods can determine where the information should be stored in the PHDS. The conversion process would then involve a county staff person reviewing the contents of a staging table (similar to a Lotus spreadsheet) containing the information that could not be converted automatically. To convert all the data, that person would have to determine where—in what PHDS form and field—to put each piece or block of information that couldn't be converted automatically.

At a minimum, the IDEA project conversion will include developing all basic data conversion modules for Follow-Me/MIAMI, CMX, and Immunization and converting all the minimum data that must be reported to the state, regardless of the data entry practices involved. In addition, IDEA will develop as many custom conversion modules as the project can afford. The local public health departments will then have the option of choosing to convert all or only part of the remaining data. The cost of such conversion will depend on the amount of non-standard information involved and the degree of inconsistency in local data entry practices.

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Project Timeline Finalized

The IDEA Project timeline for Phase I, the Public Health Data System (PHDS), has been refined and finalized. Additional systems testing and development of the system training plan have been incorporated in the work plan. Target dates for major tasks are now as follow:

Begin requirements review and systems design	September, 1998
Begin customization and development of prototype	September, 1998
Working prototype available for demonstration	February, 1999
Begin pilot testing of data conversion	June, 1999
Begin pilot test of PHDS at three pilot sites	July, 1999
Complete pilot test of PHDS	mid-September, 1999
Begin statewide roll-out of PHDS to participating counties	late-September, 1999
Anticipated date of completion of state-wide roll-out	March, 2000

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Brief Updates

Sib Clack, the IDEA Project Communications Officer, will be present as a resource at the five Family and Community Health Bureau regional meetings to be held across the state this fall: in Sidney, September 10; in Great Falls, October 6; in Polson, October 29; in Livingston, November 5; and, in Billings, November 10.

Sib is also available to speak to public health staff, county commissioners, and other interested organizations. Call her at 444-9527 for details.

If the person on the mailing label for this newsletter is no longer at this address, please let us know to whom the newsletter should now be sent. If we have spelled your name incorrectly, or your address has changed, let us know that, too. Call Leyetta Way at 444-4565.

Sherry Spence, IDEA Contracts Manager, has a different telephone number than was published last month. Her permanent number is 444-1566.

DIAC Members Added

Terry Dennis, M.D., will be joining the IDEA Project's Data Integration Advisory Council (DIAC) to provide the perspective of a provider of health services and epidemiologist. Dr. Dennis also serves on the Public Health Improvement Task Force for the Department of Public Health and Human Services.

Meredith Hirsch, co-Director of the Custer County Health Department, will bring the perspective of the providers of county public health services in eastern Montana to the deliberations of the advisory group. (It was erroneously reported last month that Meredith's co-Director, Jody Menyhart, would be serving on the DIAC.)

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Vol. 1 No. 7
SEPTEMBER 1998

INTEGRATED DATA FOR EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

PHDS Pilot Sites Selected

Butte-Silver Bow, Toole, and Missoula county Public Health Departments have been selected to pilot test the Public Health Data System (PHDS) software! These counties were selected because their size, programs, hardware and network configurations will provide the IDEA Project with important information about implementation. The pilot-testing will also allow us to test our methods of evaluating the impact of the project on the delivery of local public health services.

Pilot site activities will begin in June, 1999, and will conclude in mid-September of 1999. Activities will include: baseline and post-test data collection; training in the use of Windows and PHDS software; data conversion of existing files in existing software; pilot testing of the software.

The pilot sites will provide the necessary staff time and the willingness to undergo the pilot testing process. The IDEA Project will provide: the PHDS software; any necessary upgrade of PC(s) to run the software; communications costs for the central server connection (where appropriate for the local configuration); file-to-file data conversion when data in existing software has been entered consistently; some customized data conversion in consultation with local staff; training in the use of the PHDS software and ongoing user support; and, trouble-shooting throughout the pilot.

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Advisory Council Holds Quarterly Meeting

The Data Integration Advisory Council (DIAC) had its third quarterly meeting of 1998 on September 30th. Members in attendance were: Kathie Bailey, Yvonne Bradford, John Chappuis, Drew Dawson, JoAnn Dotson, Nancy Ellery, Pete Feigley, Dan Forbes, Mary Beth Frideres, Debbie Fulton, Meredith Hirsch, Terri Hocking, Kathleen Martin, Dave Thorsen, Rick Yearry. Guests were Ron Baldwin, Dave Clague and Valerie Pugh from TRW, Joyce Burgett of HPSD, and Dennis Prody of AAMD. The council members' perspectives and suggestions were requested on all items of the agenda, including the specific manner of constituting the Common Local Intake and the infrastructure considerations of deploying the Public Health Data System (PHDS) software.

If you have questions about, or suggested agenda items for, the DIAC, call Sib Clack at 444-9527. If you would like a list of the current membership of this advisory council, call Leyetta Way, IDEA Project Administrative Assistant, at 444-4565.

This project is supported by federal funds including: grant MCH-30T033-05-0 from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (Title V, Social Security Act), Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; grant U66/CCU815295-01 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the Public Health Service of the Department of Health and Human Services; and by funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Service, under Grant Number 59-3198-7-520. The contents of this publication are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the view or policies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture or the Department of Health and Human Services, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

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JAD Sessions Scheduled

If you are in Helena and are interested in contributing to the Joint Application Definition sessions for the PHDS, let us know. You are welcome to sit in and participate in any of the following sessions:

Month of October:

1st: MCH 1-4p, A110 Cogswell
2nd: A110 Cogswell
5th: 307 Cogswell
7th: MCH 1-4p, C307 Cogswell
13th: IZ 1-4p, A110 Cogswell
14th: FP 1-4p, C209B Cogswell
15th: MCH 1-4p, A110 Cogswell
16th: General 9a-12p, C209A Cogswell
20th: FP 9a-12p, 410 Capital Bldg.
MCH 1-4p, C307 Cogswell
26th: MCH 1-4p, A110 Cogswell
27th: FP 1-4p, C307 Cogswell
28th: IZ 1-4p, C209A Cogswell

Month of November:

2nd: FP 1-4p, C307 Cogswell
4th: IZ 1-4p, C209A Cogswell
6th: MCH 1-4p, C307 Cogswell
9th: FP 1-4p, A110 Cogswell
12th: General 1-4p, C209B Cogswell
13th: IZ 1-4p, A110 Cogswell
17th: FP 1-4p, C307 Cogswell
18th: MCH 2-5p, C307 Cogswell
20th: IZ 1-4p, C307 Cogswell

If you have any questions about the schedule, contact Leyet 444-4565.

The **MT IDEA Project** is a four-phased project which places emphasis first on providing local integration to have impact on service delivery to clients as soon as possible.

PHASE I Develop a comprehensive Public Health Data System (PHDS) for use at local public health departments which will provide a robust client management capability for FollowMe/MIAMI, Family Planning and Immunization, and other public health programs as needed.

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PHASE IV Complete full-scale training, support and evaluation components of the first three phases. Develop and extend electronic links with private providers of immunizations, with hospitals providing birth assessment information, and with other divisions' related information systems.

Brief Updates

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NEWS LETTER

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Vol. 2 No. 1
OCTOBER 1998

INTEGRATED DATA FOR EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

Software Customization Sessions Progressing

There have been a total of 36 hours of system requirements review and conceptualization work sessions conducted during the month of October and 27 more hours are scheduled for the first three weeks of November. These meetings, or Joint Application Design/Description (JAD) sessions, have included separate sessions with Immunization Program staff, with Family and Community Health Bureau program staff and representatives of local public health departments working with IDEA Project staff and TRW consultants. A system implementation staff resource from the T.I.E.R. software vendor, Sequest Technologies, has also participated in some of these JADs.

We are on target for completing this portion of the customization process and will be scheduling additional JADs for the visualization/prototyping sessions to take place beginning in late December and continuing into the middle of April, 1999.

We are including staff from Gold Systems by conference call in relevant JADs in order to tap into the knowledge they have gained working with our public health departments over the years they have supported the existing FollowMe software.

If you are interested in participating in any of our three-hour JADs, let Leyetta Way know (444-4565) and we may be able to include you via conference phone connection as well. (Refer to Revised JAD Schedule article on page two.)

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IDEA Project Selected for National Presentation

The National Association of Health Data Organizations (NAHDO) has scheduled our IDEA Project as a poster presentation AND as an alternate for oral presentation at their 13th annual "Health Data Initiatives"convention in Atlanta in January, 1999. IDEA Project staff Sherry Spence, Design and Evaluation Manager, and Sib Clack, Communications Officer, will attend.

Montana's project was selected in the conference topic area of "Information for Public Health: Best Practices." Our grass roots development approach, our search for funding based on obvious positive impact on public health service delivery and coordination, and our multi-phased approach to project management were the basis for our selection as a best practices model.

This project is supported by federal funds including: grant MCH-30T033-05-0 from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (Title V, Social Security Act), Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; grant U66/CCU815295-01 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the Public Health Service of the Department of Health and Human Services; and by funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Service, under Grant Number 59-3198-7-520. The contents of this publication are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the view or policies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture or the Department of Health and Human Services, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

JAD Sessions Schedule

If you are in Helena and are interested in contributing to the Joint Application Definition sessions for the PHDS, let us know. You are welcome to sit in and participate in any of the following sessions:

November. 1998

2nd:	1	Cogswell C307
4th:	9-12p MCH	SRS Bldg. Rm. 301
6th:	1-4p IZ	Cogswell C307
9th:	1-4p FP	Cogswell A110
12th:	1-4p MCH	Cogswell C209B
13th:	1-4p IZ	Cogswell A110
16th:	1-4p General	Cogswell C307
18th:	2-5p General	Cogswell C307
20th:	1-4p General	Cogswell C307
24th:	9-12p MCH	Cogswell C209B

FP is Family Planning
MCH is Maternal & Child Health
IZ is Immunization

If you have any questions about the schedule, contact Leyetta Way at 444-4565.

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NEWS LETTER

Montana IDEA Project

Vol. 2 No. 2
November 1998

INTEGRATED DATA FOR EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

Visualization JAD Sessions Scheduled

The JAD sessions for the conceptualization portion of the software customization process for our Public Health Data System (PHDS) concluded during Thanksgiving week. State program staff and supervisors were joined in this effort by local public health staff, either in person or by conference call. Local staff participating included: Yvonne Bradford, Pam Hays, Carol Regel and Pat Levington from Missoula; Ann Drenk and Cindy Nielson from Bozeman; Terry Hocking, Gan Cossel and Diane Curnow from Butte; Meredith Hirsch from Miles City; and Mike Henderson and Kay Robertson from Helena.

TRW will produce the conceptualization document during the first week of December, 1998, and that document will be reviewed the following week. Based on that document, the actual prototyping of the customization of the T.I.E.R. software will begin. Screens will be designed and brought to the development group for review and suggestions. These "visualization" JAD sessions will occur within approximately 84 hours over a three-month span according to the schedule printed on page two of this newsletter. In general, there will be JAD sessions scheduled in the pattern of one week "ON" and one week "OFF." During the "OFF" week, TRW will incorporate the input from the development team for review during the next week's sessions. There will be a program-specific JAD for each of the Immunization, Maternal and Child Health, and Family Planning programs during the "ON" week, as well as a general JAD session, during which screens common across all programs served in the system will be reviewed. Maternal and Child Health programs will have their program-specific JAD's on Mondays, Family Planning on Tuesdays, and Immunization on Wednesdays. The General JAD will occur on Thursdays.

If you are interested in attending these Helena sessions, let Leyetta Way know (444-4565). If you are interested in participating but do not have the time to travel to Helena, we may be able to include you via conference phone connection. Again, call Leyetta.

Once the visualization process is initially complete, we will be asking various public health services staff around the state to test the system for user friendliness so we can "tweak" the software design to improve its usability if needed. We want to include local program and support people who use computers frequently as well as those who rarely or never use the computer during their public health service work. There will be more details about this later.

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Visualization JAD Sessions Schedule

If you are in Helena and are interested in contributing to the Joint Application Definition (JAD) sessions for the visualization of the PHDS prototype, let us know. You are welcome to sit in and participate in any of the following sessions:

Date	Focus of JAD	Location
1-4-99	MCH	C209A
1-5-99	FP	A110
1-6-99	IZ	A110
1-	C il	C209A
1-		C307
1-12-99	FP	A110
1-13-99	IZ	A110
1-14-99	General	C307
1-25-99	MCH	C307
1-26-99	FP	A110

Date	Focus of JAD	Location
1-27-99	IZ	A110
1-28-99	General	C209A
2-8-99	MCH	A110
2-9-99	FP	A110
2-10-99	IZ	A110
2-11-99	General	C209A
2-22-99	MCH	A110
2-23-99	FP	A110
2-24-99	IZ	A110
2-25-99	General	C209A

Date	Focus of JAD	Location
3-8-99	MCH	A110
3-9-99	FP	A110
3-10-99	IZ	A110
3-11-99	General	(\
3-15-99	MCH	,
3-16-99	FP	A110
3-17-99	IZ	A110
3-18-99	General	C209B

All rooms are located in the Cogswell Building at 1400 Broadway.

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Vol. 2 No. 3
December 1998

INTEGRATED DATA FOR EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

PHDS Software Capability Updated

When the IDEA Project Communications Officer, Sib Clack, was traveling around the State this summer and fall talking about the IDEA Project and the capability of the T.I.E.R. (Totally Integrated Electronic Record) software we are customizing to produce the Public Health Data System (PHDS) for local public health service providers, she told people that the T.I.E.R. software had a drill-down capacity to allow the user to examine, on demand, up to three data elements about the local caseload in relationship to one another. For example, the relationship of age of mother, trimester in which prenatal care began during the pregnancy, and birth weight of the baby, might be something a local public health department staff member may want to examine within the county caseload.

Since this summer, this drill-down capability has been expanded by the software vendor and the number of data elements that can be examined is now unlimited. This will make use of the software to do on-demand analysis of local data even more convenient and effective. Data can be viewed in tabular or graph format and will be current as of the last record entered or updated in the system prior to the data analysis.

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Visualization JAD Session Changes Available to Participants

The dates and focus of the visualization Joint Application Design (JAD) session described in last month's IDEA Project Newsletter (Vol. 2, No. 2, November, 1998) have not changed although there **have** been some room changes. **All sessions will take place between 1:00pm and 4:00pm.** Draft computer screens for the Public Health Data System (PHDS) will be designed prior to, and critiqued during, these software customization working sessions. **If you are planning to attend any of these JAD sessions, please call Leyetta Way at 444-4565 and let her know so that you will be given the latest information on location.** Because of the upcoming Legislative Session, some of the larger rooms we had originally reserved have been pre-empted. ***If you would like to participate by conference call, call Leyetta at least 24 hours in advance and she will arrange to have you connected to the session and draft screen prints to be FAXed to you prior to the session.***

This project is supported by federal funds including: grant MCH-30T033-05-0 from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (Title V, Social Security Act), Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; grant U66/CCU815295-01 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the Public Health Service of the Department of Health and Human Services; and by funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Service, under Grant Number 59-3198-7-520. The contents of this publication are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the view or policies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture or the Department of Health and Human Services, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

Conceptualization Document Reviewed

The PHDS system design document produced by our Management Information Systems (MIS) contractor business partner, TRW Systems, from the Conceptualization JADs conducted between September 22nd and ' vember 24th will be reviewed by t. tate program staff and local pul lth services personnel wh ar ited in the JAD ses nerate those system specifications. If you are interested in providing feedback on this document as well, please call Sib Clack at 444-9527.

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NEWS LETTER

Montana IDEA Project

Vol. 2 No. 4
January 1999

INTEGRATED DATA FOR EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

Visualization JAD Sessions for PHDS Reorganized

The customization of the T.I.E.R. software to produce our Phase I Public Health Data System (PHDS) is continuing on schedule. In order to maximize the efficient use of the time of state program staff, of our system design consultant (TRW), and of local public health personnel participating in our Joint Application Design (JAD) sessions, we have significantly reorganized the length and frequency of our sessions.

All program-specific sessions will be held for a maximum of two hours between 1:15 and 3:15 pm. General JADs (all programs) will be held every other week for a maximum of 2 1/2 hours, from 1:15-3:45 pm. There will be only two JADs per week, usually on Tuesdays and Thursdays unless special circumstances warrant. We are suspending program-specific JADs for three weeks to allow the information already submitted to be assimilated and to allow more program-specific screens to be developed.

If you are planning to attend any of these JAD sessions, please call Leyetta Way at 444-4565 BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME and let her know so that you will be given the latest information on JAD sessions. ***If you would like to participate by conference call, call Leyetta at least 24 hours in advance and she will arrange to have you connected to the session and draft screen prints to be FAXed to you prior to the session.***

REORGANIZED SCHEDULE
All but one session will be held in the Cogswell Building, 1400 Broadway, Helena

TUESDAYS	THURSDAYS
MCH 1:15-3:15	**Immunization** 1:15-3:15
February 9th, A110 February 23rd, A110 March 9th, A110	February 11th, C307 February 25th, C307 March 11th, C307
Family Planning 1:15-3:15	**General (all programs)** 1:15-3:45pm
February 10th, A110 March 2nd, C307 March 16th, A110	February 4th, C307 February 18th, A110 March 4th, C307 March 18th, 111 Sanders, Rm 306

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Phase II JADs Scheduled to Begin

Phase II of the IDEA Project has already begun! We are scheduling regional Joint Application Design (JAD) sessions around the state in February and early March to gather critical input from local public health service providers about the specific kinds of client information that should be shared among local public h ms (WIC, Follow Me, N iunizations and Family Planning at first) to facilitate client intake across programs and both local and statewide referrals.

This phase, previously called Common Local Intake, has been renamed **Sharing of Public Health Information (SOPHI)** to more closely reflect the functionality we will be developing for use at the local level. A memo from Sib Clack, IDEA Project Communications Officer, has been sent out to local program people and tribal health departments inviting them to attend any of the seven locations of these regional meetings across the state. The dates and locations are:

County/Area	Date	Time	Location
Missoula	February 3rd	1-3:30pm	301 W. Alder, Basement Conf. Rm
Gallatin (Bozeman)	February 5th	1-3:30pm	311 W. Main, 3rd floor Community Room
Cascade (GF)	February 19th	9-11:30am	115 4th St. S., Conf. Room
Hill (Havre)	March 1st	2:30-5:00pm	Courthouse Basement Meeting Room
Roosevelt (Wolf Point)	March 2nd	2:30-5:00pm	400 2nd Ave S., Law Enforcement Bldg., Basement Conf. Rm.
Custer (Miles City)	March 3rd	1:30-4:00pm	Miles Community College, Rm 106
Yellowstone (Billings)	March 4th	9-11:30am	123 S 27th, Mtg Rm. A, 2nd Floor

If you are interested in participating and you didn't get a memo, call Sib at 4

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N E W S

L E T T E R

Montana IDEA Project

Vol. 2 No. 5
February 1999

INTEGRATED DATA FOR EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

Phase II Work Sessions Continue

Phase II of the IDEA Project is well under way! We have held three, productive, regional work sessions (in Bozeman, Missoula and Great Falls) in February and will hold four more in the first week of March. These work sessions are designed to gather critical input from local public health service providers about the specific kinds of client information that should be shared among local public health programs (e.g., WIC, Follow Me, MIAMI, Immunizations, Family Planning) to facilitate client intake across programs and referrals, both local and statewide. This phase, previously called Common Local Intake, has been renamed **Sharing of Public Health Information (SOPHI)** to more closely reflect the functionality we will be developing for use at the local level. The dates and locations for the last four work sessions are:

County/Area	Date	Time	Location
Hill (Havre)	March 1st	2:30-5:00pm	Courthouse Basement Meeting Room
Roosevelt (Wolf Point)	March 2nd	2:30-5:00pm	400 2nd Ave S., Law Enforcement Bldg., Basement Conf. Rm.
Custer (Miles City)	March 3rd	1:30-4:00pm	Miles Community College, Rm 106
Yellowstone (Billings)	March 4th	9-11:30am	123 S 27th, Mtg Rm. A, 2nd Floor

If you would like to give input but cannot attend in your region, we encourage you to fill out and send in the "SOPHI Survey" that was sent out last month with the memo from Sib Clack about the work sessions. If you didn't get a copy of the survey, call Leyetta Way at 444-4565.

Those who have attended the sessions so far include Gan Cossel and Barb Mueske from Butte; Cindy Nielson, Stephanie Murphy, Ann Drenk, Peggy Conwell and Stephanie Nelson from Gallatin County; Joyce Colclough from Ravalli County; Carol Regel, Pat Buffington, Yvonne Bradford, Pam Burgess Hayes and Mary Pittaway from Missoula; Linda Davis from Polson; Helen Stordahl and Karen Smith from Pondera County; and Carol Keaster and Cherry Loney from Great Falls. Project staff would like to thank those who have participated for their input.

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This project is supported by federal funds including: grant MCH-30T033-05-0 from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (Title V, Social Security Act), Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; grant U66/CCU815295-01 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the Public Health Service of the Department of Health and Human Services; and by funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Service, under Grant Number 59-3198-7-520. The contents of this publication are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the view or policies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture or the Department of Health and Human Services, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

Visualization Work Sessions Continue

The customization of the T.I.E.R. software to produce our Public Health Data System (PHDS) is continuing on schedule.

If you are planning to attend any of these work sessions, please call Leyetta Way at 444-4565 and let her know so that you will be given the latest information on these sessions.

If you would like to participate by conference call, call Leyetta at least 24 hours in advance and she will arrange to have you connected to the session and to e-mail or FAX draft screen prints to you prior to session.

Remaining Sessions

All but one session will be held in the Cogswell Building, 1400 Broadway.

MCH 1:15-3:15
March 9th, A110

Immunization 1:15-3:15
March 11th, C307

Family Planning 1:15-3:15
March 2nd, C307
March 16th, A110

General(all programs) 1:15-3:45pm
March 4th, C307
March 18th, 111 Sanders, Rm 306

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PHASE II Develop a Common Local Intake that will link the PHDS with the other health data systems used at the local level to share clients' demographic information among the linked systems and eliminate duplicate input and interviewing. Selected clinical and risk information may also be shared depending on agreements at the local level.

PHASE III Develop an IDEA Information Center which will contain selected extracts of the data collected at the local level with extracts of data from related data systems at the state (e.g., TEAMS for economic assistance, Vital Statistics). The extracts will be designed to provide meaningful information while preserving client confidentiality. This Phase will also build in the flexibility to link with related external health data systems.

PHASE IV Complete full-scale training, support and evaluation components of the first three phases. Develop and extend electronic links with private providers of immunizations, with hospitals providing birth assessment information, and with other divisions' related information systems.

"Wholistic Health" theme for Spring Meeting

The Annual Montana Spring Public Health Meeting (formerly the Spring Nurses Meeting) *"Getting the Bigger Picture", Public Health in Montana;* is scheduled for May 18th to May 20th at Carroll College in Helena. The theme of this year's conference spotlights the wholistic health needs of children for normal development.

Featured presenters at this year's conference will be: Sharon Humiston, MD, Pediatrician and Immunization Specialist from the CDC; Michael Gurian, Ph.D., Psychologist from Spokane, Washington; John Down, Counselor, Carroll College; and Skip Wilcox, Psychologist from Cour d'Alene, Idaho.

A very special event this year will be the first annual Poster Presentation event. Anyone with an effective public health service or program who would like to share can think about participating in this event. For more information, please contact Pat Brown, Nurse Consultant, at (406)444-4233. **Please mark your calendar for this event.**

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Vol. 2 No. 6
March 1999

INTEGRATED DATA FOR EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

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Advisory Council Quarterly Meeting Held

The first quarterly meeting of 1999 of the Data Integration Advisory Council (DIAC) was held in Helena, May 24th. Thirteen members were able to attend, either in person or by conference call. Members in attendance were:

Kathie Bailey, Fergus County Commissioner
Doris Biersdorf, Yellowstone County Health Department
Yvonne Bradford, Missoula City-County Health Department
JoAnn Dotson, Family and Community Health Bureau Chief, DPHHS
Mary Beth Frideres, Lewis and Clark County Health Department
Meredith Hirsch, Custer County Health Department
Terri Hocking, Butte-Silver Bow Health Department
Charlie Lewis, Indian Health Service, Billings (New Alternate Member)
Kathleen Martin, Communicable Disease and Prevention Bureau Chief, DPHHS
Rick Mohnk, St. Peter's Community Hospital, Helena (New Member)
Mat Rude for Deb Fulton, Vital Statistics, DPHHS
Susan Raph, Toole County Health Department
Brett Williams for John Chappuis, Financial and Support Services Bureau, DPHHS

Also in attendance were: Joyce Burgett, Supervisor of the State's Immunization program; Mike Henderson from Lewis and Clark County Health Department; Ron Baldwin, Susan Fitzpatrick and Valerie Pugh from TRW; and IDEA staff members Jim Aspevig, Sib Clack, Sherry Spence, and JoDel Travis.

Topics that were discussed include: Evaluation of the impact of the IDEA Project on service delivery at the local level, as well as on client outcomes; the status of the IDEA Project budget with the current Legislature; the status of the DPHHS Legal opinion on the definition of "public health program" vis a vis IDEA confidentiality standards; the status of the customization of the T.I.E.R. software to produce our Public Health Data System (PHDS); the status of the development of our Sharing of Public Health Information (SOPHI) web-enabled capability; and the PHDS connection options via SummitNet (the State's intranet) or the world wide web (internet) and the related deployment and sustainability issues involved.

If you would like a copy of the DIAC meeting notes, please contact JoDel Travis, IDEA Administrative Assistant, at (406)444-4565. If you would like further information, contact Sib Clack, IDEA Project Manager, at (406)444-9527 or at sclack@state.mt.us.

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CUSTOMIZATION OF SOFTWARE CONTINUING

The screen prototyping portion of the customization process is winding up. The next step of the customization process will be to totally document the specifications of the screens that the design team has approved and provide that documentation to the vendor of the T.I.E.R. software to create our PHDS screens and functionality. Then a working prototype will be produced and will be tested by state and local public health program staff. The pilot-testing of our PHDS software will then take [illegible] Missoula, Shelby and Butte this [illegible]. State-wide roll-out will begin in mid-September, 1999.

IDEA PROJECT STAFF CHANGES

Brett Williams of the Financial Operations and Support Services Bureau of the Health Policy and Services Division is the new IDEA Project Director. Brett will be spending approximately a quarter of his time providing overall consultation and direction to the Division's IDEA Project. Welcome Brett!

JoDel Travis has assumed duties of IDEA Project Administrative Assistant. Leyetta Way has left the Project for maternity leave AND to start her own business! Welcome JoDel and Good Luck, Leyetta!!

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NEWS
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INTEGRATED DATA FOR EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

Vol. 2 No. 7
April 1999

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Deployment of PHDS to Small/Tribal Health Departments

One of the guiding principles of the IDEA Project from its inception has been to design a public health data system that will meet local needs AND be sustainable with available state and local resources. We have looked closely at the anticipated costs of deploying the Public Health Data System (PHDS) across the state, both in terms of initial installation and in terms of sustaining connections to the PHDS database in Helena over time. We have determined that we must deploy the connection in two ways, depending on the size and location of the local public health department/public health program provider.

The PHDS will be deployed in two ways: (1) over the State's intranet, the wide-area-network called SummitNet; and, (2) through internet service providers at the local level that will connect the local health department with the PHDS database through a secure web connection. The SummitNet connection will be used for all the large and medium-sized public health departments as well as for small public health departments that are physically located in the same building with the county's existing SummitNet connection (and can, therefore, share the cost of the connection). This deployment model will serve 27 of our counties, which together serve approximately 85% of our State's citizens.

The local public and tribal health departments (and the public health program sites not co-located with the public health department and which will also will be served by the PHDS software) will be connected through a secure web application via the internet. *This deployment will be delayed approximately one year until the summer of 2000.* The delay is because the T.I.E.R. software that we are customizing to be our PHDS will not be web-enabled until then. We will pilot-test the web-enabled version of our software in Shelby at the the Toole County Health Department.

If you have any questions about deployment to your specific location, please call Jim Aspevig at 444-5441 or Sib Clack at 444-9527.

IDEA Project Presented to National Conference

Sib Clack and Jim Aspevig attended the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) All Kids Count Immunization conference in St Paul, Minnesota during the last week in April. The IDEA Project was included in the agenda for the conference, both as part of a breakout session and as a poster presentation. Jim Aspevig gave a well-received presentation on the integration of a state's immunization registry within a system supporting multiple public health programs in a session that included presentations by New York, Florida and Illinois.

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Customization of Software Wrapping Up

The documentation of the specifications of the **Public Health Data System (PHDS)** screens that our design team has approved has been submitted to the vendor of the T.I.E.R. software to create our **PHDS** screens and functionality. Valerie Pugh, the system designer assigned to our Project by our business partner, TRW, will be traveling to Chicago to work directly with vendor staff to assist them in producing a working prototype that will then be tested by state [illegible] ublic health program staff in June. We are [illegible]or beginning to pilot-test the PHDS in Missoula and Butte in July.

Error in Last Month's Newsletter

It has been pointed out to us by one of our loyal readers that we erroneously stated that our quarterly advisory council meeting was held in May, instead of on **March** 24, 1999! We completely missed our error, but thanks to Elaine Fordyce for letting us know we goofed! (Just to remind everyone, our next Data Integration Advisory Council (DIAC) meeting will be held in Helena on June 16, 1999.)

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May 1999

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PHDS SOFTWARE BEING CUSTOMIZED BY VENDOR

Sequest Technologies is continuing to customize their T.I.E.R. software to implement our Public Health Data System (PHDS) specifications. Staff from our business partner, TRW, visited the vendor's offices during the last week of May to provide direct input to that process and to continue their system development oversight on our behalf. They will be returning to Sequest again in June to continue that advisory/oversight process to help ensure that our product is delivered on time.

SOPHI WEB PAGES DEMONSTRATED

A demonstration of the web pages for the Phase II, Sharing of Public Health Information (SOPHI), was arranged during the Spring Public Health Conference sponsored by the Family and Community Health Bureau at Carroll College in Helena. Those invited to attend were all those who had participated in the work sessions held at public health departments in seven locations around the state in February and March. Those who attended the demonstration made valuable suggestions for further refinement of the web pages. These suggestions are now incorporated in the design of SOPHI. (See Phase II project description on back page for a description of the SOPHI functionality.)

GRANTING AGENCY VISITING PROJECT

Representatives of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the federal Department of Health and Human Services will be engaged in an on-site visit to our IDEA Project June 2 and 3. This agency provides a significant portion of the federal grant funds that are supporting the development of our four-phased IDEA System. They will be brought up to date on the latest status of the Project and will provide technical assistance in various areas. They also will accompany IDEA staff to Butte-Silver Bow Health Department to meet with the local staff who will be participating in pilot-testing our new PHDS.

This project is supported by federal funds including: grant MCH-30T033-05-0 from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (Title V, Social Security Act), Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; grant U66/CCU815295-01 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the Public Health Service of the Department of Health and Human Services; and by funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Service, under Grant Number 59-3198-7-520. The contents of this publication are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the view or policies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture or the Department of Health and Human Services, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

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INTEGRATED DATA FOR EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

PHDS SOFTWARE STILL BEING CUSTOMIZED BY VENDOR

Sequest Technologies is continuing to customize their T.I.E.R. software to implement our Public Health Data System (PHDS) specifications. (See Phase I project description on the back page for a description of the PHDS functionality.) Staff from our business partner, TRW, visited the vendor's offices again during June to provide additional direct input to that process and to continue their system development oversight on our behalf. Sequest has missed the original target date of June 30, 1999, for delivery of a customized PHDS product to pilot-test. We are currently in the process of contract management and modification to establish an absolute deadline for delivery. Our pilot test sites have been informed of the delay.

SOPHI WEB PAGE DEVELOPMENT CONTINUES

The Sharing of Public health Information (SOPHI) phase is progressing on time. The Visualization Document was reviewed by state program staff and local public health department staff and was accepted with only minor changes. (See Phase II project description on back page for a description of the SOPHI functionality.)

GRANTING AGENCY VISITED IDEA PROJECT

Representatives of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the federal Department of Health and Human Services performed an on-site visit to our IDEA Project June 2 and 3. This agency provides a significant portion of the federal grant funds that are supporting the development of our four-phased IDEA System. The representatives were brought up to date on the latest status of the Project and also toured the Butte Silver Bow Health Department to meet with local staff who will be participating in one of the pilot-tests of our new PHDS.

The CDC representatives were especially interested in the IDEA Project Evaluation protocol and implementation materials and asked that those materials be shared with them so that they could share them with other grantees.

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CHANGES

JoDel Travis is returning to teaching music this fall and will no longer serve as our IDEA Project Administrative Assistant. She is currently orienting her replacement to her duties. Daryl Carrier will now be serving in this capacity and can be reached at the address shown on the first page under MONTANA IDEA PROJECT CONTACTS. Good Luck, JoDel and Welcome, Daryl!!

The IDEA Project office will be moving from the third floor of the Cogswell Building in the Capitol Complex to Room A206 on the second floor in the same building. This move is expected to take place in mid-August. Phone numbers and mailing and e-mail addresses will remain the same.

NO, YOU DIDN'T MISS ANYTHING...

we didn't issue a Montana IDEA Project newsletter in June, 1999! We took a break! We're back to the normal monthly issues now.

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